Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The ~~powder of claim 1~~ method of claim 29 wherein said particles deliver said agent into the bloodstream of said subject.

18. (canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The ~~powder of claim 1~~ method of claim 29, wherein the aerogel ~~particle contains~~ particles contain pores of about 1 to 100 nm.

20. (Currently amended) The ~~powder of claim 1~~ method of claim 29, wherein the aerogel ~~particle has~~ particles have a surface area of about 100 to 1,200 m^2/g.

21. (canceled)

22. (Currently amended) The ~~powder of claim 1~~ method of claim 29, wherein the aerogel ~~particle has~~ particles have a particle size of about submicron up to about 3 microns.

23. (New) The ~~powder of claim 1~~ method of claim 29, wherein the aerogel ~~particle is~~ particles are a carrier selected from the group consisting of sugars and carbohydrates.

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled) The ~~powder of claim 1,~~ method of claim 29, wherein said powder is prepared by the steps of (i) preparing porous gels of a carrier material which is soluble in pulmonary surfactant; (ii) soaking the porous gels in a solution of the therapeutic agent; (iii) removing the solvent and forming aerogels by supercritical drying; and (iv) converting the aerogels into powder.

26. (Currently amended) The ~~powder of claim 1~~ method of claim 29, wherein the therapeutic agent is insulin.

27. (Currently amended) The ~~powder of claim 1~~ method of claim 29, wherein the therapeutic agent is methadone.

28. (Currently amended) The ~~powder of claim 1~~ method of claim 29, wherein the therapeutic agent is naltrexone.

29. (Currently amended) A method of treating a disease state responsive to treatment by a therapeutic agent comprising pulmonarily administering to the alveoli of a subject in need thereof a dispersible dry powder ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a therapeutic agent in aerogel particles wherein said particles have a density of about 0.1 to 0.001 g/cc and particle size to permit them to reach the alveoli of a human subject's lungs upon inhalation.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the powder is prepared from an aerogel prepared by supercritical drying at a temperature of less than 40°C.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the powder is prepared from an aerogel prepared by co-gelling the therapeutic agent with a gel-forming material selected from the group consisting of sugars and carbohydrates.

32-35. (canceled)

36. (Currently amended) A method of delivering a therapeutic agent to a subject, said method comprising administering to the alveoli of said subject a dispersible dry powder ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising a therapeutically effective amount of said therapeutic agent in aerogel particles wherein said particles have a density of about 0.1 to 0.001 g/cc and particle size to permit them to reach the alveoli of a human subject's lungs upon inhalation as an inhalant.

37. (Currently amended) A method of delivering a therapeutic agent to the bloodstream of a subject, said method comprising administering to the alveoli of said subject a

dispersible dry powder ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising a therapeutically effective amount of said therapeutic agent and aerogel particles wherein said particles have a density of about 0.1 to 0.001 g/cc and particle size to permit them to reach the alveoli of a human subject's lungs upon inhalation as an inhalant.

38. (canceled)

39. (Currently amended) The ~~powder of claim 1~~ method of claim 29 wherein said agent is adsorbed onto the structure of said particles.

40. (Currently amended) The ~~powder of claim 1~~ method of claim 29 wherein said particles are directly prepared from said therapeutic agent.

41. (Currently amended) The ~~powder of claim 1~~ method of claim 29 wherein the structure of said particles comprise said therapeutic agent.

42. (Currently amended) The ~~powder of claim 1~~ method of claim 29 wherein said powder is formulated for quick introduction into the bloodstream and controlled release thereafter.

43. (Currently amended) The ~~powder of claim 1~~ method of claim 29 wherein the powder is formulated for slow release.

44. (canceled)

45. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the powder is prepared from an aerogel prepared by supercritical drying at a temperature of less than 40°C.

46. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the powder is prepared from an aerogel prepared by co-gelling the therapeutic agent with a gel-forming material selected from the group consisting of sugars and carbohydrates.

47. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the aerogel particles contain pores of about 1 to 100 nm.

48. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the aerogel particles have a surface area of about 100 to 1,200 m^2/g.

49. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the aerogel particles have a particle size of about submicron up to about 3 microns.

50. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the aerogel particles are a carrier selected from the group consisting of sugars and carbohydrates.

51. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the therapeutic agent is insulin.

52. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the therapeutic agent is methadone.

53. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the therapeutic agent is naltrexone.